



## **DGS Manages Improvement Projects for War Memorial Building** *Elevator Refurbished & Fence Replaced at Historic Baltimore Landmark*

(Baltimore, MD) -- The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) is managing a pair of improvement projects at the War Memorial Building on behalf of the State and City of Baltimore. The Board of Public Works recently approved a contract to modernize the existing elevator system to meet safety and accessibility requirements. A new iron fence is being installed along the perimeter of the building to protect the integrity of the facility which is a city landmark and is a contributing resource of the Business and Government Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located at 101 North Gay Street, the War Memorial Building serves as a place of remembrance for fallen soldiers and as administrative offices for veteran service organizations, including the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. The building also houses an assembly room and 1,000-seat auditorium used by veterans and community groups.

To ensure the building is accessible to all, the existing elevator is being refurbished. A new hydraulic system, cables, cab and doors will be installed. Emergency power and alarm upgrades are also part of the project which is expected to be completed fall 2014.

"The improvements to the War Memorial Building in Baltimore City are making the memorial and its valuable contents more accessible to our Veteran community," said Secretary Edward Chow, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. "The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs celebrates efforts to support the integrity of the building. For years to come, the Memorial will continue to honor Maryland Veterans who have served our Country."

DGS is also overseeing the installation of a seven-foot high wrought iron fence around the perimeter of the War Memorial Building. Core drilling is underway to create holes for the new fence poles. In keeping with the requirements of an historic landmark, top finials for the fence poles will be custom-made to match the decorative finials on the building. A series of gates will allow the facility to be open to the public during business hours, and locked during non-business hours. The project is expected to be completed spring 2014.

"It is an honor for DGS to be involved in overseeing improvements to such an important and inspirational landmark," said DGS Secretary Alvin C. Collins. "Making the War Memorial Building more accessible, and protecting its history for future generations, is what *Doing Great Service* is all about."

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